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# Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 SS-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /155 W
---------- 087382
R 121415Z OCT 73
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2999
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0930

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SF
SUBJ: BRITISH TUC DELEGATION: ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS COVERAGE

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS HAS BEEN REPORTING REACTIONS OF BRITISH TUC DELEGATION TO SOUTH AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS LARGELY IN FORM OF DIRECT QUOTATIONS FROM DELEGATION LEADER VICTOR FEATHER. PRESS HAS ALSO OFFERED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF TUC EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OCTOBER 9 WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER (JOHANNESBURG 0926).

2. FOLLOWING DAY-LONG VISIT OCTOBER 10 TO ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESIDENT BRAND MINE IN ORANGE FREE STATE, OCTOBER 11 AND RAND DAILY MAIL QUOTED FEATHER AS SAYING HE REGRETTED THAT "GOOD ARRANGEMENTS" WHICH MINE MANAGEMENT HAD MADE FOR AFRICAN MINERS HAD NOT CO ABOUT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN AFRICAN TRADE UNION BECAUSE TUC CONCERNED "NOT JUST ABOUT THE PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL WELFARE OF PEOPLE" BUT "ALSO ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY IN PEOPLE." REFERRING TO ALL-WHITE MINE WORKERS UNION HE SAID "IT REFLECTS LITTLE CREDIT ON THE WHITE TRADE UNIONISTS WHO, IN MY VIEW, HAVE NEGLECTED TO ASSIST THEIR AFRICAN COLLEAGUES TO ORGANIZE INTO SOME SEMBLANCE OF A TRADE UNION BODY." DESCRIBING MINE MANAGEMENT AS "EXTRAORDINARILY PATERNALISTIC" HE NEVERTHELESS
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ADDED "PERHAPS I AM EXAGGERATING A LITTLE WHEN I SAY THAT I SUSPECT

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THE MANAGEMENT IS MORE HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING AFRICAN REPRESENTATION THAN ARE THE WHITE TRADE UNIONISTS." STAR CARRIED ROUGHLY SIMILAR ATTRIBUTIONS AND ALSO QUOTED FEATHER AS SAYING "I WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE HAPPY TO HAVE A MEAL IN THEIR KITCHENS FROM THE ENTREE TO THE DESSERT" AND AS HAVING OBSERVED THAT MANY BRITISH HOSPITALS WOULD ENVY FACILITIES OF MINE HOSPITAL.

3. OCTOBER 12 RAND DAILY MAIL QUOTED FEATHER AS SAYING TUC DELEGATION HERE TO TRY TO OFFER SOUTH AFRICANS CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR AFRICANS "ON THE BASIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES." MAIL SPECULATED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT FEATHER MUST BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE FUNDAMENTAL TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES WITHIN PRIME MINISTER'S POLICY OF DEVELOPING "COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCEDURES" FOR AFRICANS IN "EVOLUTIONARY AND ORDERLY MANNER."

4. WHILE RAND DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL OCTOBER 11 QUESTIONS" EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW TALKING WITH TWO VOICES ON THE LABOUR ISSUE" SURPRISINGLY HOPEFUL MAIN THRUST OF EDITORIAL IS THAT VORSTER'S "GUARDED INTIMATION" TO TUC THAT "GOVERNMENT INTENDS ALLOWING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCEDURES TO EVOLVE FOR AFRICANS IS MOST HEARTENING" SINCE, WHILE VORSTER "WAS AT PAINS NOT TO USE THE ACTUAL PHRASE 'TRADE UNIONISM' THIS IS CLEARLY WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS IN MIND."
DEGRACE

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